



Italy dockworkers strike

The JOURNAL of COMMERCE ONLINE | Jan 21, 2009 7:00PM EST

Italian dockworkers will stage a 24-hour nationwide strike as of midnight to protest the death of a colleague amid growing anger over safety standards on the waterfront.

A dockworker at the conventional cargo terminal at the northwestern port of La Spezia died after slipping under a mobile crane on Wednesday. It was the third fatal incident at Italian ports this month.

The stoppage, called by three major transport unions, will halt cargo loading and unloading at all ports, including container transshipment hubs in southern Italy and Sardinia.

The unions demanded meetings with the ministers of labor and transport to agree on improved safety measures in the port sector.

-- Bruce Barnard